

Alcohol Use and Heavy/Binge Drinking

- The lifetime prevalence of alcohol use among Tennessee high school students in 2001 was 75%, compared to 78% nationally. Seventy-five percent of males reported lifetime alcohol use, compared to 74% of females. White students (77%) were more likely to have used alcohol than their black counterparts (69%).
- Within the previous 30 days, 44% of students in Tennessee drank alcohol (one or more drinks) on at least a single occasion, compared to 50% of students nationwide. A slightly higher proportion of males (45%) than females (43%) had used alcohol in the past 30 days. A lower percentage of black students (36%) than white students (47.5%) had drunk alcohol in that period. The 30-day prevalence of alcohol use increased by grade level, from 34% among 9th graders, to 52% among 12th graders. The rates for 10th and 11th graders fell in the middle range, at 45.5% and 48%, respectively.
- Twenty-seven percent of Tennessee students and 31.5% of U.S. students reported heavy, or "binge," drinking within the past 30 days. "Binge" drinking is defined as consumption of five or more drinks of alcohol on a single occasion. Males (30%) were more likely to have drunk heavily than were females (25%). Heavy or "binge" drinking was higher for 12th graders (36%) than for other students in other grades (20% - 28%). Binge drinking among black students (16%) was half as high as among white students (32%).

Marijuana Use

- The lifetime prevalence of marijuana use among Tennessee students is 47%. More males (51%) have tried marijuana than females (43%). The lifetime prevalence for marijuana use increases by grade level: 9th, 38%; 10th, 46%; 11th, 53%; 12th, 55%.
- In 2001, 24% percent of students, both in Tennessee and the U.S., reported that they had used marijuana within the past 30 days. Marijuana use was more prevalent among Tennessee males (27%) than females (21%). There was no difference by race/ethnicity.

Cocaine Use

- In 2001, 9.3% of students reported using powder, freebase, or crack cocaine during their lifetimes. This rate is down from the rate in 1999 (10%), but still up from the 1997 YRBS percentage of 7% and the 1995 percentage of 5.9%. In terms of students' lifetime prevalence of cocaine use, more males (10.5%) than females (8.3%) had used various forms of the drug. Lifetime prevalence for Tennessee students is nearly the same as the prevalence for the nation (9.4%).